

Psalms 18:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He bowed the heavens also, and came down: and darkness was under his feet.

Analysis

God 'bowed the heavens and came down' with thick darkness under His feet. The Hebrew 'natah' (bowed/stretched) suggests pulling heaven down to earth. The 'araphel' (thick darkness) recalls Sinai's thick cloud (Exodus 20:21). This portrays God bridging infinite distance to rescue His servant. It anticipates the Incarnation —God descending to rescue humanity. Reformed theology sees God's transcendence and immanence held together.

Historical Context

Drawing on Israel's foundational memory of Sinai where God descended in cloud and darkness to meet Moses and give the covenant.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does God's willingness to 'come down' inform your view of prayer?
2. What does the Incarnation reveal about God's commitment to rescue?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּעֲשֶׂה	שְׁמַיִם	וְיָמִים	וְיָמִן	וְעַמְקָה	וְעַמְקָת
He bowed	the heavens	also and came down		and darkness	
H5186	H8064	H3381		H6205	H8478

כִּלְיוֹן
was under his feet
H7272

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 33:26 (Parallel theme): There is none like unto the God of Jeshurun, who rideth upon the heaven in thy help, and in his excellency on the sky.

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